

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A ceramic arc tube comprising: a discharge vessel having at least one capillary having an electrode assembly, the capillary extending outwardly from the discharge vessel to a distal capillary end, the electrode assembly being hermetically sealed to the distal capillary end with a frit material, the electrode assembly passing through the capillary to the discharge chamber and being connectable to an external source of electrical power, the discharge vessel enclosing a discharge chamber containing a buffer gas and an ionizable fill material, the pressure of the buffer gas being at least 5 bar ~~from 2 bar to 8 bar~~.
2. (currently amended) The ceramic arc tube of claim 1 wherein the buffer gas pressure is from 5 ~~2~~ bar to 10 bar.
3. (original) The ceramic arc tube of claim 1 wherein the buffer gas pressure exceeds 10 bar.
4. (original) The ceramic arc tube of claim 1 wherein the discharge vessel is comprised of a sapphire tube and the capillary is comprised of polycrystalline alumina.
5. (original) The ceramic arc tube of claim 4 wherein the capillary is part of an end cap which has been hermetically sealed to the sapphire tube.
6. (original) The ceramic arc tube of claim 5 wherein the end cap has an annular rim which fits over an open end of the sapphire tube.
7. (original) The ceramic arc tube of claim 1 wherein the buffer gas is argon, krypton, xenon or a mixture thereof.
8. (original) The ceramic arc tube of claim 1 wherein the buffer gas comprises xenon.
9. (currently amended) The ceramic arc tube of claim 8 wherein the buffer gas pressure is from 5 ~~2~~ bar to 10 bar.

Claims 10-31 (withdrawn).